

**The Finnish Academy of Science and Letters Centennial Celebration Seminar in Social Sciences**

**Monday 28. 1. 2008 University of Helsinki, Small Hall (Pieni Juhlasali) Fabianinkatu 33. 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

## **The Nordic welfare state - a model for the future or a blind alley?**

**The intention of the seminar is to offer new perspectives on the current situation, as well as a future prognosis of the Nordic welfare states using social science approaches. Are the Nordic countries going to be successful in the future? Do we hold the right keys in our hands?**

**Languages: morning Finnish, afternoon English**

**10.0 Opening, Kari Raivio, Chancellor, Chair of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters**

**10.10- 11.00 Pohjoismaat - paras kolkka maailmassa? (Nordic countries, the best corner in the world?)**

**Olli Kangas, Research Professor, KELA, The Social Insurance Institute of Finland**

Social indicators depict a high level of social well-being in the Nordic countries. The speaker provides a statistical overview on the position of the Nordic countries.

**11.00-12.00 Suomalainen pahoinvointi ( Ill-being in Finland)**

**Suvi Ronkainen, Professor, University of Lapland**

Although Finland has a high level of social well-being and can be described as a pragmatic country there exist phenomena that plague the nation e.g. suicides, domestic violence and alcoholism. The session provides a cultural and historical perspective on the meaning of these phenomena.

**12.00-13.00 Lunch - Teachers newspaper room, (Lehtisali) 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**13.00-14.00 The Nordic Model: Prospects and Challenges**

**Torben M. Andersen, Professor, University of Aarhus**

Will the Nordic countries be able to finance their model as they face today's global markets?

**Finnish commentator, Matti Pohjola, Professor, Helsinki School of Economics**

**14.00-14.15 Coffee break**

**14.15-15.15 Welfare regime, middle class societies and the challenge of education**

In many regions of the developed world, we observe a type of "educational stagflation". This paradox of "educational declassement" is a new challenge that cultural-capital based middle classes are facing today. What are the prospects of this challenge, now and in the future?

**Louis Chauvel, Professor, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (IEP)**

**Member of the Institut Universitaire de France**

**Finnish commentator: Riitta Jallinoja, Professor, University of Helsinki**

**15.15-16.15 Welfare state and middle class political dominance**

The development of the welfare state has spread benefits to the entire society, including the middle class. How dependent is the welfare system on the attitudes and contributions of the middle class?

**Bo Rothstein, Professor, Gothenburg University**

**Finnish commentator: Osmo Soininvaara, Former MP, Former Minister of Health and Social Services**

**16.15 Discussion and Refreshments**

**Working group:**

Jorma Sipilä (chair), University of Tampere

Riitta Jallinoja, University of Helsinki

Olli Kangas, The Social Insurance Institute of Finland, Research Department

Matti Pohjola, Helsinki School of Economics

Suvi Ronkainen, University of Lapland

Raimo Väyrynen, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Tiina Ristikari (secretary), University of Tampere